

SECRET

4 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: John Roche Visit

1. John P. Roche came to see me at 1000, 4 April, partly to muse about political developments in South Vietnam but primarily to pass and discuss his 27 March memorandum for the President on Hanoi's (Ho's) concept of negotiations. (A copy of Roche's memo is attached. You can skip the clipped enclosures thereto which are simply documents showing how perceptive Roche has been in the past.)

2. Roche's argument -- that Ho regards negotiations as a political tactic, not an objective, and will use this tactic whenever he considers it most advantageous to do so -- is well-founded and well put.

3. Roche said he and Rostow had discussed this memo with the President last week. The President was receptive, inclined to accept Roche's pitch, and directed that a strategy or contingency plan be worked out for handling the situation that would arise if Ho adopted the negotiation tactic. Rostow told Roche to get in touch with me so the three of us could work out a strategy that would best serve the national interest.

4. I am personally quite willing to lend a hand in this exercise since it relates to a critical problem on which I have strong views that, apparently, are substantially shared by Roche and Rostow. I am not willing to do so, however, without your approval since work on this exercise gets into a politically charged policy area outside of the Agency's technical jurisdiction.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

Mr. Roche's memo to the President
dated 27 March 1967

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